The Suffragist

Vol VI, No. 26
FIVE CENTS

OFFICIAL WEEKLY ORGAN OF
THE NATIONAL WOMAN'S PARTY

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1918

Drawn for The Suffragist by Nina E. Allender

The Senate to American Women: "YOUR Democracy can wait; but keep on working!"

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Notes of the Week

Registration of Women Voters in New York

RETURNS from the registration of New York women by parties have just been compiled; they show more women registered as Republicans than as Democrats. This is to be expected, since the party alignments show many more Republicans than Democrats in the state. The feature of the registration worth noting, however, is that a larger proportion of the total Republican registration is made up of women. Thirty-three per cent of the Republicans are women; not quite twenty-eight per cent of the Democrats are women. A large number of women are unwilling to join a party which is blocking the passage of the federal suffrage amendment.

Women Delegates at Republican Convention

THE unofficial Republican convention of New York state to be held in Saratoga, on the eighteenth of July, will include thirty-three women delegates out of a total of 135. Of the 270 delegates and alternates, 77 will be women.

In planning the future course of the Republican Party in New York, the women representatives will undoubtedly insist that the party take some action in regard to the backward stand of Senator Wadsworth on the question of suffrage.

The Cost of a Suffrage Campaign

THE recent publication on the expenditures of the New York Woman Suffrage Party for its state campaign in 1917, gives conclusive proof of the economy of working for suffrage by national action. The amount spent in this one campaign year in New York by one organization was $413,353.14. The receipts of the National Woman's Party, which has campaigned for the federal amendment over the entire country for five and one-half years—from 1913 through June, 1918—have amounted to $405,878.02, and the federal amendment is almost won.

There is as good a proof as need be why suffragists will not take the advice of their opponents and work for suffrage state by state.

Labor Department Creates Woman's Division

IN spite of the enormous increase in the number of women working in industry since the entrance of this country into war, the Department of Labor has only just created a Woman's Division. Miss Mary Van Kleeck, who has been the chief of the Woman's Division of the Ordnance Bureau, will be at the head of the new division. She will be assisted by Miss Mary Anderson, one of the best known women workers in the country. The new division will occupy itself with the determination of policies rather than with their administration. Miss Van Kleeck will serve as a member of the war labor policies board. She will work with the other divisions of the Department of Labor and with the State Departments.

Secretary of Labor Wilson made the following statement in announcing the establishment of the new division:

"In recognition of the great importance to the nation of the work of women in industry and the urgent necessity for a national policy in determining the conditions of their employment, I have urged, and Congress has now granted, the necessary authority to establish a Women's Division in the Department of Labor. Its immediate task will be to develop in the industries of the country policies and methods which will result in the most effective use of women's services in production for the war, while at the same time preventing their employment under injurious conditions. Its large and very necessary aim will be to focus attention on the national importance of the conditions of women's work as influencing national standards and as affecting the welfare of the entire nation."

Picket Runs for Congress

MISS Hattie Krueger, of Buffalo, New York, will run for Congress on the Socialist ticket. Miss Krueger was one of the pickets who was given a thirty day sentence for asking for political liberty and who was unconditionally released last November. She has done valuable work as a district nurse in Buffalo and in Philadelphia. A woman with sufficient courage to go to gaol for her convictions would make a most worthy representative in Congress.

"Work or Fight" Say Georgia Men to Women

THE chivalrous Southern gentlemen who so hate the thought of a woman at a common poll, don't mind coercing the women to work. The Georgia Senate has just passed, with one dissenting vote, a "work or fight" bill. The act includes women. What if the women said, "No work without a vote?"

Hawaiian Suffrage

THE legislature of Hawaii will probably extend the right of suffrage to Hawaiian women very soon, since it petitioned Congress on two occasions to pass a law giving it the power to enfranchise women. In fact, before the United States came into possession of the Hawaiian Islands, the women had equal recognition with the men, according to the statement of Mrs. B. F. Pitman, who was largely instrumental in having the Hawaiian suffrage bill passed by Congress. She says of the position of women in the islands:

"In the days of the monarchy, Hawaiian women took great interest in politics and could be effectively active. The women are today, as heretofore, possessors of great wealth, and hold a large share of the property. The men fully appreciate the wisdom, public spirit and executive ability of the women, both of the native and missionary classes, but since the monarchy ceased to exist and Hawaii became a territory of the United States, they have been obliged to take their place beside their American sisters of the unenfranchised states."

Plain facts like these should put Americans in a sufficiently humble frame of mind concerning their boasted democracy.

A Congress of Slavic Women

THERE was held in Prague recently a congress of Slav women, representing organizations from Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, and lower Austria; in addition there were present Slavonian, Croatian, Serbian, Polish, and Slovak women. These women will work for the establishment of "political institutions founded upon the widest social justice and equality for all." Their recommendations state further:

"We demand freedom that will secure for all time liberty and independence to subjugated nations and peace to all humanity; we demand freedom for all."

Hungarian Premier Declares for Woman Suffrage

DR. Wekerle, premier of Hungary, has made a public statement to a deputation of women in favor of woman suffrage.

Since then, the lower House or the Hungarian Diet has passed the government franchise bill.

If the United States Senate does not hasten action on the federal suffrage amendment, our autocratic enemies will far outstrip the United States in democratic development.

Qualifying for the Vote Through a Husband

HOWEVER, the Hungarian Premier has not yet declared for universal suffrage, as was widely reported. He recommended four qualifications to apply to women—some of them of a delightful originality.

To be able to vote, a woman should, according to Dr. Wekerle, have graduated from four classes in the primary school or any similar institution; or she should be the wife *or widow* of a man who had pursued the regular course of study in a secondary school or in a corresponding military or civil establishment; or she must possess or be entitled to the interest of landed property measuring at least forty acres; or finally, she must be the manager of a shop or independent trade, provided she pays taxes amounting to at least fifty crowns.

It was suggested in France that women should vote if their husbands were away fighting in the war; but never before in the world's history, probably, has a woman qualified for the vote by the education of her husband, even after he was dead.

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By Frank P. Walsh, Member of the War Labor Board

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With the mightiest battle of all the world occupying the stage in the military theatre of Europe —our sole prize of war being the extension of democracy to the autocracies of the world and the strengthening of its foundations among the so-called free nations—it was hoped that this great step in democratic evolution, the vindication of the right of women, as well as men, to political self-determination, would be thrown brilliantly upon the black background of the day as a splendid example of progress in a warring world.

And to think that the delay was caused by, perhaps, one vote, or a portion of a vote, the pair of a Senator who was ill!

It is a reflection upon our institutions that unanimity in the Senate should be lacking upon this great issue when all political parties are demanding the passage of the resolution; when the leader of the dominant party, in the person of the President of the United States, is giving it his whole-hearted sanction, and, above all, with the women of the nation—aye, of the whole world—giving a support to the bloody struggle for democracy which challenges the gratitude and admiration of mankind.

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Democrats on the Defensive

By Mary Gertrude Fendall

MANAGERS of the Democratic Party are showing a nervous consciousness of their poor record on woman suffrage. They have already begun to circulate through the press an elaborate defense of their position.

The Woman's Bureau of the National Democratic Committee issued a bulletin some time ago, bitterly attacking Republicans for not having passed the federal suffrage amendment during their years of power. The heart of the Woman's Bureau beats with indignation, says this bulletin, at the recollection of Republican opposition to woman suffrage after the civil war, and their "fifty years of masterly inactivity" since that date.

The Woman's Bureau is gravely mistaken if it thinks women will oppose either Republicans or Democrats in the next election for their actions fifty years ago. They will scan the record of this present administration on suffrage. Up to date it is a reactionary and dishonest one. . . .

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Great Enthusiasm in Idaho for National Woman Suffrage

SINCE the Senate refused to pass the suffrage amendment on June 27, the men and women of Idaho have redoubled their efforts to secure a favorable vote on the measure from Senator Borah.

At first they were tolerant over this error of judgment in their greatly-loved Senator. They were sure that he would vote for the amendment when he realized how much his constituents wished him to do so. When his answers came back to the state, reiterating opposition, they wrote him again, more insistently. Now they realize that this great enfranchising act could be passed with his assistance, that it is actually held up through lack of his support; and they are genuinely indignant. It is very hard for the patriotic people of Idaho, who are making grievous sacrifices in the national war for democracy, to have any patience with a denial of democracy within our own nation. As one of the Senators' friends said, "Billy Borah has got to vote right. Idaho could not hold up its head again if through lack of his aid, justice to American women fails."

Every important group of people in his state has now sent a message to Senator Borah, earnestly asking his support for the suffrage amendment. The Non-Partisan League of Idaho, which held their first convention on the second, third, and fourth of July, heartily endorsed the amendment and embodied this endorsement in their platform, with a provision for the ratification of the amendment in Idaho. The Non-Partisan League is a tremendous force among Idaho farmers. It has already 20,000 organized members. The State Federation of Labor recently joined it; on the fourth of July the Foresters' and Miners' Association came in also.

On July 3, in the evening, Margaret Whittemore, representing the Woman's Party in Idaho, was called to the platform of the convention by Mr. W. G. Scholtz, president of the Idaho Non-Partisan League. On the floor were 1,200 people from every county in the state; and this great audience, representing the organized working people of Idaho, applauded, shouted, and cheered for the suffrage amendment for over five minutes.

Miss Whittemore told of the struggle of women, the nation over, for freedom; of their need of help from Idaho; of their passionate indignation over the shuffling and delay in the United States Senate; of the President's failure to give the amendment the support necessary for its passage. "Will you call on your Senators to support this measure?" she said. "Will you ask President Wilson to give the help needed for its success?"

Resolutions, offered at once from the floor, were greeted with an outburst of applause and seconded with a rousing cheer. The vote, when it came, was unanimous, and given with a will.

Every state leader present spoke for the amendment, so that national woman suffrage was a perpetually reiterated issue throughout the convention. Representative Baer, of North Dakota, one of the chief speakers at the convention, afterwards expressed his amazement that suffrage should be such a live issue throughout the state. He was so impressed with the desire of Idaho that Borah should vote for the amendment that as one of the Senator's greatest admirers, he sent him a telegram saying, "Great enthusiasm for suffrage here. Personally would like to see you support it."

Mrs. John T. Morrison, of Idaho
Member Advisory Council
National Woman's Party

Among those who spoke in hearty approval of the amendment were W. G. Sholtz, president of the Idaho Non-Partisan League; Ray McKaig, secretary of the National Non-Partisan League; Mrs. Ray McKaig; W. W. Deal, state master of the Grange and chaplain of the National Grange; O. M. Tronaas, state president of the Agricultural Union; H. F. Samuels, choice of the League for state Governor; and Judson King, of Washington, one of the chief speakers.

The women of Idaho, acting separately, have gone emphatically on record in favor of the amendment extending the vote to other women. From Pocatello a telegram, signed by the officers of every important club in the city, was sent to Senator Borah. "We women of Idaho have always stood loyally by you," the telegram read. "We now feel we should be able to rely upon you to stand by us in support of the national suffrage amendment, in favor of which the sentiment of your constitutents is practically unanimous."

This telegram was signed by officers and members of all kinds of organized groups, of Red Cross Units, of the local Council of National Defense and the War Savings Stamps Committee; by the Catholic Ladies' Altar Society and the Congregational Ladies' Aid; by the superintendent of the Home Department of the Presbyterian Church; by the president of the City Federation of Women's Clubs, of the Civic League and the Art Club; by the chairman of the Home Economics Association; by a Red Cross recruiting officer and a food emergency demonstrator. Every kind of woman in Idaho wants to help other American women gain independence, and is asking Senator Borah to act for her in the United States Senate.

Excerpts from Senator Borah's Suffrage History

SENATOR Borah has fallen into a perfect mire of inconsistencies in his dealings with the suffrage amendment.

He says now that he cannot vote for national woman suffrage because he is conscientiously opposed to the measure. Yet he introduced it himself in the Senate in 1910.

Urged by the chairman of the Republican Central Committee of Idaho and by every considerable group of Idaho people to vote for the suffrage amendment, Senator Borah declares he is acting in accordance with the states' rights plank in the 1916 Republican national platform.

But in 1916 Senator Borah publicly stated that the suffrage plank was *not* a states' rights plank.

In a telegram to Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, dated June 8, 1916, Senator Borah said, "Upon the question of the federal amendment the (suffrage) plank was silent, and neither rejected nor endorsed it." His words had great authority at that time, because he was a member of the resolutions committee which drafted the plank.

In this interpretation he agreed entirely with Senator Sutherland, another member of the national Republican resolutions committee.

On August 1, Senator Sutherland wired to Mr. Hughes, "The Republican platform commits the party to the principle of woman suffrage and recognizes the right of each state to determine the question for itself. It is silent on the subject of a constitutional amendment and therefore leaves everybody of the party free to determine for himself this question."

Upon receipt of this telegram, and no doubt influenced by the interpretation put upon the plank by Senator Borah and Senator Sutherland, both members of the committee which had drafted it, Mr. Hughes declared himself in favor of the passage through Congress and the prompt ratification of the federal suffrage amendment.

Now Senator Borah declares that Mr. Hughes "saw fit to disregard the suffrage plank in the national platform. . . . But I," he concludes virtuously, "am glad to find myself in perfect accord with the last expression of the party of which I am a humble member."

Tennessee and the Federal Suffrage Drive

By Lucy Branham

TENNESSEE seems to be the most hopeful of all the Southern states in its support of the federal suffrage amendment. Half of the Congressmen voted in favor of the amendment on January 10—Representatives Burns, Sims, and Fisher, Democrats; and Representatives Austin and Sells, Republicans.

Senator McKellar favors the amendment and Senator Shields, formerly opposed, is now noncommittal. So influences at home and abroad are affecting Senator Shields' vote, and the recent work which several Woman's Party organizers have done in Tennessee is beginning to react in state-wide interest in the passage of the amendment. The newspapers of the various counties are gradually coming over to it editorially.

When I went to Memphis in March for the purpose of organizing the state and winning political and newspaper support, I found a much more favorable atmosphere than Miss Younger and Miss Hourwich described in their October campaign in Tennessee.

There were several reasons for my kind reception. Chiefly because suffrage itself was growing to be a popular issue; the President of the United States had endorsed it; it had become a legislative reality when it passed the House of Representatives; the party support of the Democratic and Republican campaign committees had given it official sanction; and, as a Tennessee woman told me, the court decision in favor of the pickets did a lot to win sympathy for them.

When Miss Younger was there, she told of the Administration's arrest and imprisonment of leading American suffragists. Democrats in Tennessee made a political attack upon the Woman's Party speakers. They refused them permits for street meetings; theaters and halls were taken away from them; mayors telegraphed these "harmful women" not to come to their towns. During this persecution of the pickets Miss Sue White, secretary of the Blind Commission of Tennessee, and one of the brightest young women in the state, took a stand in favor of the Woman's Party as a protest against this flagrant denial of free speech in Tennessee. Through her co-operation a great deal has been accomplished there.

Organized labor was friendly to Miss Younger, and through labor groups she secured a meeting in Chattanooga, where the Police Commission had refused her a permit to use the streets or court house, and in Knoxville, where the sheriff took away the permit to the court house and guarded the court house door with an armed posse.

When I reached Tennessee the reaction after the vindication of the pickets had just begun to set in. Suffrage sentiment was growing steadily, but suffragists had not yet begun to take advantage of the situation by an organized political campaign.

MY first move was in Memphis, where Miss Younger had worked in vain to secure a street meeting. Mayor Litty not only gave a permit for the meeting but acted as chairman of a second meeting of ours in Memphis two weeks later. We found it universally true that the very men who had opposed Miss Younger's speaking in Tennessee were ashamed of their arbitrary action and did not wish to repeat it.

Lucy Branham

I planned a campaign to cover most of the important towns in all of the congressional districts of the state. Miss White and I went to Jackson, where we secured the signatures of every official who was in the court house to a telegram to Senator Shields, urging him to vote for the suffrage amendment. We won the sympathy and interest of many of the leading suffragists of the state and secured splendid co-operation in arranging fifteen meetings for Miss Beulah Amidon, of California. We had secured news in each of the towns where she was to speak and thus widely advertised the federal suffrage amendment throughout the state.

Through this work the suffrage story reached masses of Tennessee people. Even in the rural districts there were few people who did not read in their papers that suffragists in Tennessee were asking Senator Shields to support the President in his progressive stand for the federal suffrage amendment.

Miss Amidon went from Memphis to Jackson, where Judge Stovall introduced her at a meeting in the court house. In Nashville she interviewed Major Stahlman, editor of the *Banner*. Major Stahlman carries great weight as a supporter of Senator Shields for re-election; the *Banner* has recently given strong editorials supporting the federal amendment.

In Harriman Miss Amidon spoke in a crowded library. The chairman, who was mayor of the town, and one of Senator Shields' campaign managers, announced the suffrage meeting at the Liberty Loan meeting in the afternoon, and a splendid audience attended. The editor of the Harriman paper offered every assistance we asked. The Knoxville papers were equally generous with news, though they refused editorials. We secured a splendid cartoon of Miss Young and Miss Younger being frozen out of the court house by the sheriff and his armed posse, while Knoxville held out a bouquet of welcome to Miss Amidon and me. The political opposition in Knoxville had melted.

Chattanooga was cordial, although I had to argue for half an hour with the Police Commissioner to persuade him that the federal suffrage amendment was a proper subject to talk about on the streets of Chattanooga. We had no trouble securing the Patton Hotel ball-room, through the influence of Mrs. Margaret Severance, for a mass meeting. The editor of the Chattanooga *News*, Mr. George Fort Milton, is very favorable to the suffrage amendment.

Johnson City, Tennessee, showed its lively interest in suffrage at a well attended meeting. As Miss Amidon left for California, I substituted here, and Dr. Kennedy, the principal of the Tennessee State Normal School, introduced me. Senator Shields' campaign manager was present at the meeting; he expressed his interest in the amendment and promised to write to his Senator.

I then held meetings in Clarksville, Tennessee; and in Murfreesboro, and in Trenton. Mrs. Mark Anthony was chairman of the meeting there. Mrs. Samuel Shields, of Knoxville, sister-in-law of Senator Shields, held a parlor meeting for me in Knoxville.

After arranging a chairman for Tennessee I went to Georgia. Miss Clara Louise Rowe followed me in Tennessee. Among the meetings held was a mass meeting at Nashville, where Mr. Dudley Field Malone spoke. This meeting won wide publicity and a great deal of political support.

The last week in June I returned to Tennessee for a week's time to interview prominent men and women in several towns in the southern and western parts of the state in order to find out what interest there was in suffrage there. Among the towns I visited were Franklin, Lawrenceburg, Columbia, Fayetteville, and Lewisburg. Lewisburg was considered so opposed to suffrage that it was impossible to form a league there last year, but I had no difficulty in getting enthusiastic members in June. Men and women alike were interested in the great movement for freedom.

WHEN Senator Shields goes over his state in his campaigning, he will find a great deal of interest in the position he is holding on suffrage. Businessmen, lawyers, farmers, and newspaper men are watching his vote, and the leading war workers of the state. Not in Tennessee alone are the people watching Senator Shields with the hope that he will stand by the Administration all the way through to the federal amendment; all the progressive men and women of the nation expect him to do full justice to American women and enroll the United States among the freest republics of the earth.

Comments of the Press

Is America a Leader in Democracy ?

ALMOST as important as its effect at home is the impression created abroad by the Senate's delay in passing the amendment, particularly in those countries whose women have already been enfranchised. The aspirations of America to be a leader of democracy throughout the world will seem merely impudent if this country falls behind the countries of Europe in granting political equality to its own women.—*Washington (D. C.) Post, July 2, 1918.*

"Fine Words Butter no Parsnips"

LYNCHBURG'S Chamber of Commerce has made a strong appeal to the women of that city to meet the national emergency by filling the places of the absent men folk to the full extent of their powers. Representative Carter Glass, owner of the *Lynchburg News,* in a letter to the editor of his paper, commends the appeal, but states that his object in writing is rather to voice his appreciation of the "unconquerable spirit and splendid service of the women of my town." He further says:

"Every recitation of fact carries a suggestion of obligation which no intelligent, capable woman who is alive to her duty in this grave national emergency can afford to ignore. American citizenship is on trial; and it must be a source of infinite satisfaction and pride to Lynchburg that, so far, in every test the people of this community have met each successive ordeal with surpassing courage and devotion. . . . Will the people of Lynchburg falter when they are sorely needed to maintain the spirit and promote the sure and speedy success of our armies abroad? To ask the question is to answer it. They will fight in comradeship with the brave men whom they have sent abroad to fight for them. They will see and properly appraise the privilege."

All that is eminently true and it is also true that the same spirit which animates the women of Lynchburg permeates the entire womanhood of America. But this is the pity of it! Neither Representative Glass nor the editor of the *Lynchburg News* is willing to concede to the women of Lynchburg, whose "splendid service" is so properly praised, the recognition of citizenship which Mr. Glass tells them is now on trial. He is sure they will not falter and that they will fight in comradeship with the brave men whom "they" have sent abroad to fight for them. As for their reward, "God will bless them." These "intelligent, capable women" are besought to carry on men's work without, however, having the male "right" of franchise. They are fit for everything else but the vote, according to Mr. Glass, but that he is not willing to concede.

It is typical of the anti-suffragist. Labially, nothing is too good to be said of the "capable, intelligent women." But they are unfit for citizenship! It is a lip worship to which we cannot subscribe. If the women are all that Mr. Glass says they are, his women of Lynchburg, ours of Richmond, of Virginia, of the country over—and who dare say to the contrary?—why not accord them the recognition of citizenship to which they are entitled and not leave their reward of faithful service to be given them after they have died of exhaustion? Less fine phrasing and more of practical comradeship would suit the occasion, Mr. Glass, and be more convincing.—*Richmond (Va.) Evening Journal, July 1, 1918.*

One Country, One Franchise

THE "right of sovereign states" to legislate on local problems touching national issues is the great stumbling block thrust in the way of the amendment by its opponents. This right has been signally ignored again and again since we entered the war. We are in this war, not as Ohio and Colorado and Florida, but as one United States, knit together by a common cause. We obey the same war laws, we buy the same liberty bonds, we fight the common fight, and make the common sacrifice. Let the Senate grant a common franchise.—*Colorado Springs (Colo.) Gazette, July 3, 1918.*

Hurry, Senators !

SUFFRAGISTS continue to wait for that "other shoe to drop." The Senate has been as long about dropping that suffrage shoe as the original one-legged man in the story.—*Miami (Fla.) Metropolis, July 6, 1918.*

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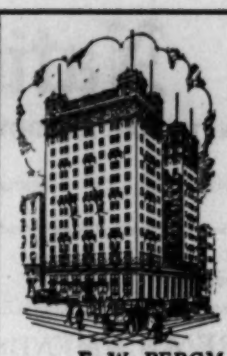

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